

# Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

April 1997

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Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
INZ006	Lagrange								
	06	1200EST			0	0	15K		High Wind (G50)
		2000EST							
	Trees and powerlines were downed across LaGrange County due to winds gusting to near 60 mph. Additionally, the roof of Redman Industries in Topeka was partially blown off.								
INDIANA, Northwest									
Pulaski County									
Nrn Part Of Cnty	30	1800EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind
	Strong winds damaged trees and power lines mainly in the northern part of the county.								
Marshall County									
Plymouth	30	1820EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind
	Strong winds downed power lines and trees.								
St. Joseph County									
Mishawaka	30	1840EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind
	Wind damaged trees and power lines were downed.								
Elkhart County									
Elkhart Muni Arpt	30	1850EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G65)
	A 75 mph wind gust downed tree limbs in Elkhart. Although funnel clouds were sighted, there was no confirmation of tornadoes.								
INZ005	Elkhart								
	30	2123EST			0	0			High Wind (G46)
INZ004	St. Joseph								
	30	2230EST			0	0			High Wind (G45)
	Very strong winds behind a cold front produced wind gusts of 45 to 65 mph across northern Indiana between 6pm and midnight. High winds caused an estimated \$80,000.00 damage to a strip mall under construction at Beecher in Eastern Will County, Illinois, near the Indiana state line.								
	Strong winds overturned a truck in Fowler and farm building roofs to be damaged.								
MICHIGAN, West									
Berrien County									
Harbert	05	2030EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
	Several trees downed.								
Berrien County									
Coloma	05	2040EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
	Power lines downed.								
Cass County									
Dowagiac	05	2100EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
	Large tree downed near Dowagiac.								
MIZ077>081	Berrien - Cass - St. Joseph - Branch - Hillsdale								
	06	1600EST			0	0			High Wind
	07	1600EST							
	An intense early spring low pressure system moving across the Great Lakes brought gale force westerly winds to all of Lower Michigan behind a strong cold front. The cold front moved onshore in western Lower Michigan around 5 PM EDT Sunday, April 6th. Winds increased to sustained speeds of 35 to 45 mph out of the west shortly after frontal passage. Frequent wind gusts of 50 to 70 mph were common through midnight, Sunday night. Winds continued to gust to gale force through 5 PM EDT Monday, April 7th. The U.S. Coast Guard reported wave heights of 10 to 15 feet near the Lake Michigan shoreline.								
	Widespread wind damage and lake shore beach erosion was reported across the area. Area insurance companies estimated claims totaled nearly \$5.0 million from the wind damage. However, no serious injuries were reported from the storm.								
	The winds downed trees and power lines and resulted in roof damage to area homes and businesses. Between 180,000 and 200,000 Consumers Energy customers lost power across the state Sunday evening. Nearly 70,000 customers were still without								

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## MICHIGAN, West

power Monday morning at 5 AM EDT.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported severe beach erosion resulted in as much as 20 feet of beach loss in a few areas. Bluffs in Saugatuck township appeared to be hit hardest. The beach erosion was due in part to unusually high lake water levels, nearly 38 inches above average.

Numerous reports of downed trees and power lines were received. Roads were blocked in some areas due to downed wires, trees, and traffic lights. Downed wires set sporadic fires in a few instances. Some of the most significant damage reports are listed below:

-In Cedar Springs (Kent County), the wind caused an estimated \$100,000 damage to heating and air conditioning units on the roof of Plainfield Lumber & Hardware Company. A tree, 3 feet in diameter, crashed onto a home.

-A mobile home was overturned at 7873 S. Derby Road in Fairplain Township in Montcalm County.

-Bleachers at Carson City-Crystal Schools (Montcalm County) were blown over onto a fence.

-Shingles were blown off several buildings in the Central Montcalm County Public Schools.

-The roof of Howard City Department of Public Works (Montcalm County) was blown off.

-In Muskegon County, several large trees were blown down onto residences and vehicles.

-In downtown Muskegon, roofing was torn off several businesses on Apple Avenue. Glass was blown out of several store-front windows.

-Winds gusts resulted in roof damage to the Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids.

-In Coopersville (Ottawa County), a section of the roof of the Owens-Corning manufacturing building was torn off.

-Winds ripped the doors off four large airplane hangars at the Grand Haven Municipal Airport.

-The steel framework of a new high school gymnasium under construction in Paw Paw (Van Buren County) was toppled by high winds.

-A 150 foot section of perimeter metal fence was blown down at Hartford Speedway (Van Buren County).

-A 70 foot tall maple tree was uprooted and fell on a house in Holland.

-A 75 foot tall tree crashed down on a home in East Grand Rapids.

-In Clinton County, a truck hauling a mobile home was overturned on U.S. Highway 27. Several large trees fell on homes in St. Johns.

-In Ionia County, extensive roof damage was done to Belding Area Public Schools. A barn was blown down north of Clarksville.

-In Evart (Osceola County), a grain elevator was damaged.

## **Cass County**

### **Cassopolis**

<b>30</b>	<b>1900EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Several trees downed.

## **St. Joseph County**

### **Constantine**

<b>30</b>	<b>1909EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G58)</b>
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NWS weather spotter reported wind gust to 67 mph near Constantine.

## **St. Joseph County**

### **Three Rivers**

<b>30</b>	<b>1930EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5K</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Trees downed in thunderstorm winds.